

Food Bank Launches Agency Direct Retail Pick-Up Program

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana launched its Agency Direct Retail Pick-Up on November 1, 2018, with Combined Community Services, Kosciusko County; Bread of Life Food Pantry, Marshall County; and Salvation Army, LaPorte. Concerned Citizens for the Homeless, Sacred Heart Church, Salvation Army, and Wee Care Daycare, Michigan City; began its direct retail pick-up on January 2, 2019. Direct retail agency pick-up program partners can pick up at retail partners five days each week. Because of its service area, the Food Bank could only pick up two-three days because of its limited fleet of vehicles.

Each week, the Food Bank's fleet of vehicles and agency partners collect product from 57 retail partners gleaned an average of 3,229 pounds of food and product per week. Food Bank retail partners include Aldi, Big Lots, Bonefish Grill, Canteen Services, Chipotle, Costco Wholesale, Fresh Thyme, Gordon Food Service, Kroger Stores, Little Caesar's Pizza, Meijer, Olive Garden, Owen's, Pizza Hut, Red Lobster, Sam's Club, Target, Walmart and Whole Foods.

The goal of the program is to get more food to people in need of food assistance. Partnering agencies have the appropriate capacity to execute this program including the number of clients served, number of hours open and appropriate food safety practices and training and create relations with stores serving their communities.

Oscar Gibson, Food Bank warehouse manager, began recruiting agency partners to participate in this direct retail pick-up program after conferring with other Feeding America food banks and learning that direct retail pick-up partnerships would enable the Food Bank to use resources like trucks and employees in different ways, free up valuable warehouse space and fulfill its mission to feed the hungry in a more efficient manner.

Retail pick-up donations include fresh produce, bread, deli items, frozen meat, dairy and other perishable items as well as nonperishable items such as personal care and cleaning products.

All program participants are trained and monitored by the Food Bank for food safety procedures including food safety certification of all participants. The Food Bank monitors all program participants for food safety procedures and ensures that all participants hold food safety certification. Participants are trained to record the pounds collected and report information weekly to the Food Bank.

Feeding America began its retail reclamation program with members in the late 1990s with retail grocery companies to recover perishable products that retail stores identified as not marketable to customers but still usable and safe for human consumption.



WISH LIST

- ✓ 12 Industrial Pallet Trucks (Jacks)
5,500 lbs. – 7,000 lbs.
\$300 - \$500 each
- ✓ New Lighting for USDA Room and Warehouse
200 lights at \$100/light
- ✓ New Cooler (2) and Freezer (2) for Community Food Pantry and Distribution Area
\$7,000 - \$9,000 each
- ✓ New Truck with Refer Unit
\$150,000
- ✓ New Dock Plate
\$6,000
- ✓ New Lift Truck
\$15,000
- ✓ Remodel and Expansion of Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County
\$150,000 - \$200,000
- ✓ New Roof
\$150,000 - \$200,000



Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 124 for more information.

IN MY VIEW

From turkey giveaways, holiday box distributions, food drives and check presentations, the Food Bank is humbled by the generosity and compassion of those who help us feed the hungry, especially during the holiday season.

And, while we embrace this warm feeling, it's time to look ahead.

It's time to recommit to our mission to work in partnership with the community to feed the hungry, increase awareness of the effects of hunger and lead programs designed to alleviate hunger.

There continues to be many people who face hunger in our communities every day.

Let's roll up our sleeves and **work together**.

Hunger is a story we can end.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marijo Martinec".

Marijo Martinec
Executive Director

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

~ Lucius Annaeus Seneca



AGENCY PARTNER NEWS

More Food Distributed Through TEFAP Agencies Through Trade Mitigation

In September 2018, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a Trade Mitigation Food Purchase and Distribution Program (Trade Mitigation Program) to help support farmers and stabilize the market in relation to trade tariffs imposed by various countries. The USDA agreed to purchase \$1.2 billion of agricultural products to distribute to people in need through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) across the country. The Agriculture Department usually distributes 700 million pounds of food through state offices to food banks, but this number is expected to more than double.

The Food Bank has 80 TEFAP agencies in its six-county service area.

Surplus fresh milk purchased from dairy farmers was the first product distributed through the trade mitigation. During four distributions from October – December 2018, the Food Bank distributed 117,192 pounds (3,084 cases or 27,758 1/2 gallons) of skim, 1%, 2% and whole milk. Over the coming months, items that will be distributed include frozen meat, produce and other frozen items.

These bonus commodities provide opportunities to distribute more nutritious items for those in need of food assistance.

The Food Bank could receive an estimated 655,000 pounds to distribute through June 2019.

PROGRAM UPDATES

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS
Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124

Senior Nutrition Program

Through December 2018, the Senior Nutrition Program has served 8,441 low income seniors and distributed 91,797 lbs. of food in the six-county service area.

Each Senior Nutrition Program bag costs \$7.50 per month.



I appreciate the food bags so much. I do not have to spend so much on groceries the week that I get this bag. Thank you for offering this to us seniors."

~ A resident of Fairington Senior Apartments in South Bend.

Healthy Choices Market

Educating low-income diabetic and high blood pressure patients to learn, choose and live a healthier lifestyle, the Healthy Choices Market is a kitchen, classroom and mini farmers market. Participants receive cooking instruction and take-home ingredients including fresh produce, lean protein and shelf-stable items to recreate dishes at home.

Through December 2018, the Healthy Choices Market served 75 client households, 259 individuals and distributed 2,577 lbs. of food.

An investment of \$100 provides one client an opportunity to learn, choose and live a healthier life each month.

Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

The Food 4 Kids Backpack Program is feeding 2,230 students in 40 schools in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Counties during the 2018-2019 school year. The Jordan Automotive Group has served as the program's presenting sponsor since 2009.

An investment of \$140 provides one student with the nutritional tools to be successful in school and life.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Each month, participants receive a box of nutritious shelf-stable items including canned fruits and vegetables, powdered milk, canned chicken and tuna, fruit and vegetable juices, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, and fresh cheese.

To qualify for this program, clients must be at least 60 years old, reside in one of the four counties where the program is offered and have an income that is 130 percent less of the federal poverty level. Special thanks to the USDA and the Indiana Department of Health for allowing us to participate in this valuable program for seniors.

Locations include Faith Mission, Elkhart; The Window, Goshen; Pax Center, LaPorte; Salvation Army, Michigan City; Michigan City Housing Authority, Michigan City; Bread of Life, Plymouth; Grace Food Pantry, Bremen; Penelope 60 Apartments, South Bend; Chicago Trail Village, New Carlisle; and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. For more information, please call (574) 232-9986 ext. 137.

Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County
18,812 households served through December 2018.
81,159 individuals served through December 2018.

The Community Food Pantry needs volunteers to serve in a variety of rolls in the pantry including: stocking, cleaning, assisting clients with shopping, bagging clients' food, etc. Volunteer are needed anytime between the hours of 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday and Friday and from Noon – 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 128 for more information.

2018 Mobile Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	2	15,541	515	1,943
Kosciusko	0	0	0	0
LaPorte	4	52,117	885	3,186
Marshall	2	16,931	335	1,220
St. Joseph	8	129,044	2,560	10,187
Starke	5	46,432	406	1,300
Total	21	260,065	4,701	17,836

Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, these numbers reflect mobile food pantries through December 2018.

FOOD FINDERS

To meet the demand for emergency food assistance, the Food Bank actively seeks manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, food growers, packers and grocers to procure more protein, produce, dairy and shelf-stable items to distribute through our network of agency partners.

Through December 2018, the Food Bank distributed 7,187,565 pounds and receipted 8,044,199 pounds of product.



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Marijo Martinec, Executive Director
Food Bank of Northern Indiana

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana works in partnership with the community to feed the hungry, increase awareness of the effects of hunger and lead programs designed to alleviate hunger. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana serves Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Counties and is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH) and United Way.

100% [\$125,640.00] (FY 2018) of total program costs for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) are financed with federal funds. TEFAP is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

100% [\$42,483.00] (FY 2018) of total program costs for The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) are financed with federal funds. CSFP is an equal opportunity provider.



When one of our clients tells you **"thank you for your kindness"** or **"you have been so good to me,"** they truly mean it."

~ Maggie Kepler, Volunteer

Wow!! That is a good question.

After I retired eight years ago, I was not sure what I was going to do after 41 1/2 years of working. I knew that volunteering was a possibility somewhere, but the question was where. A good friend introduced me to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

I found out that you don't have to have acquaintances at the Food Bank, you have friends. The other volunteers make you smile, laugh, and they care about you. Then, there are the clients. The ones we are here to help. Some clients must make decisions sometimes between feeding their families and buying their medicine. There are grandparents who now not only have to take care of themselves but also their children and their grandchildren.

Whatever amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated. Your volunteering helps everyone. No matter what you do — stocking shelves, filling bags for the Food 4 Kids Program, or getting boxes ready for the Senior Nutrition Program — your volunteer time will bring you joy and lots of happiness. When one of our clients tells you "thank you for your kindness" or "you have been so good to me," they truly mean it. They usually have tears in their eyes, and I guarantee that you will, too.

After six years of volunteering at the Food Bank, I cannot imagine doing anything else. Fighting hunger is a community effort and one of the ways is to start to volunteer at the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. The reward you feel for your effort is more than words can say. Come join us!

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Through November 2018, 9,695 volunteers generated 31,628 volunteer hours at the Food Bank. Volunteer opportunities are available Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and during special event weekends. Volunteering provides team-building opportunities for businesses and organization. Students looking to fulfill their community service hours are welcome. Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 137 for more information.



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THANK YOU
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Carris Reels, Inc.	\$2,700.00
CB Preacher Foundation	\$5,000.00
Kosciusko County Community Foundation	\$6,000.00
NIPSCO	\$15,000.00
Norfolk Southern Foundation	\$5,000.00
North Point Pediatric Dentistry	\$2,134.00
R&B Car Company	\$2,500.00
The Tire Rack	\$2,500.00
Tuesley Hall Konopa LLC	\$7,420.00
Walmart – Fight Hunger Spark Change	\$2,580.50